GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3008
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2001
GOODS IMPORTED IN THE NAME OF QUAKE VICTIMS SOLD IN MARKET
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a racket of welfare - institutions and importers in Gujarat had been busted who were selling the goods in the market after importing them in the name of earthquake victims; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE(E.B.& I) IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHIB VIKHE PATIL)

(a) & (b):- Yes, Sir. One racket has been detected by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence wherein the investigations conducted so far reveal that old and used garments imported duty free under Notification No. 7/2001-Cus. dated 27.1.2001 as reliefmaterial for earthquake victims through Kandla Port in the name of four charitable trusts, viz.,
(i) M/s. Shri Nopaji Lakhamaji Charitable Trust, Mumbai;
(ii) M/s. Shivam Development Trust Bhuj;
(iii) M/s. Shree Deendayal Gramin Vikas Trust, Kutch; and

(iv) Ayurvedic Sewa Shram, Rajkot, were diverted for sale to the markets in Delhi/Mumbai. The total value of the goods is estimated to be Rs.1.8 crores (approx.) and the estimated customs duty evasion is Rs. 70 lakhs (approx.). The goods valued at Rs. 49.25 lakhs (approx.), which were imported in the name of two of the charitable institutions, viz., M/s. Sri Nopaji Lakhamaji Charitable Trust, Mumbai & M/s. Shivam Development Trust, Bhuj, Gujarat, and were divertedto Delhi markets, have been seized by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence in October, 2001. Further necessary action as per law is being taken in the matter.